

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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لِلْحَمْدِ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ① الرَّحْمَنِ
الرَّحِيمِ ② مَا لِكَ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ③
إِنَّا كَنَعْبُدُ وَإِنَّا كَنَسْتَعِينُ ④
اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ⑤
صِرَاطَ الَّذِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ ⑥ غَيْرِ
الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ⑦

سُبْحَانَكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ

LESSON 8

THE MIRACLE OF THE QURAN

As Rasulullah (S) invited everyone to accept Islam, the *Kuffar* began opposing him more vigorously. The *Kuffar* opposed Islam in various ways. In the beginning, an effective way was to spread lies and slander against Rasulullah (S). The message of Islam was simple and Rasulullah (S) did not show any miracles on demand. But Allah had given him the miracle of Quran.

The Arabs were very proud of their language. Poets and speakers were held in high honor. The Quran, in the perfection of its language and the purity of its message, was unique and had no equal. Any Arab who listened to the Quran knew that it was so perfect that no human being could have written it. In fact, no one could copy its style. Besides, people knew very well that Muhammad (S) had very little education and could not write such a powerful message.

Allah in the Quran challenged the *Kuffar*: "Say O Muhammad, if men and jinns unite to produce a Quran like this, they will not succeed in producing the one like this, though they may help each other." (*al-Isra'*, 17:88). Allah has challenged the *Kuffar* in many other places; no one ever dared to accept this challenge.

The personality and piety of Rasulullah (S) also made a deep impression upon people. Anyone who met him immediately recognized that Muhammad (S) was not an ordinary person. Many people who met Muhammad (S) and listened to the Quran became Muslims.

The *Kuffar* thought that the best way to stop the progress of Islam was to stop the people from meeting Muhammad (S). They decided to spread all kinds of rumours about him: "He has gone crazy, he is a magician, he is possessed by jinns, he is a poet, etc." They went around convincing the people not to go to Muhammad (S). Allah consoled Rasulullah (S) and criticised the *Kuffar*:

You are not, thanks to the favor of
your Lord, a madman.
Indeed, you will receive a lasting reward.
Indeed, you possess a magnificent nature.
You will see and they will see
which of you is mad.

al-Qalam 68:2-6

Most people, hearing the propaganda of the *Kuffar* were afraid to meet Rasulullah (S) and listen to the Quran. Only a few wanted to know the truth for themselves and risked meeting him.

Such a seeker of truth was Abu Dharr Ghiffari, who belonged to the tribe of Ghiffar. He heard about Rasulullah (S) and the message of Islam. He also learned that Rasulullah's own people had become his enemies. Abu Dharr decided to travel to Makkah to see Rasulullah (S) himself. He was afraid of the Makkans' anger so he met Rasulullah (S) secretly. He listened attentively to the Quran. He was so impressed by the message of the Quran and the personality of Rasulullah(S) that he immediately became a Muslim.

His heart was now full of love for Allah and His prophet. Acceptance of the truth made him bold. Abu Dharr was not afraid of the *Kuffar* anymore. He felt so bold that he went to Kabah and announced *Shahadah*, "*La ilaha illa Allah Muhammadun Rasulullah*, (There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger.)" The *Kuffar* were enraged that a foreigner had accepted Islam and insulted their gods. Abu Dharr was beaten by *Kuffar*. He kept on repeating, "There is no god but Allah." He was saved by some Makkans who knew him and feared the reprisal of the brave tribe of the Ghiffar. Abu Dharr (R) became one of the closest and dearest companions of Rasulullah(S). He spent all his life with Rasulullah(S). Through Abu Dharr's efforts most of his own tribesmen became Muslims in the early stages of the Makkan period.

There was another person, a great Arab poet named Tufail, from the tribe of Dus. He was visiting Makkah and heard the strange rumours about Rasulullah (S). He believed in his gods, so he trusted the Makkans for whatever they said about Rasulullah (S). Whenever he saw Rasulullah (S) reading the Quran, he tried not to hear it. When he went to Kabah he kept his ears stuffed with cotton for fear of learning the Quran by mistake.

One morning he went to Kabah. He saw Rasulullah (S) saying prayers. He was reciting the Quran in his beautiful voice. Tufail said to himself, "I am a famous poet. All people think I am a very wise person. They come to me for consultation and advice. Why should I be scared of Muhammad? I should hear the Quran and decide for myself."

He cleared the cotton from his ears. He heard the beautiful recitation of the Quran by Rasulullah (S). His heart trembled when he heard Allah's message.

Tufail was deeply moved. He wanted to know more about Islam but he was afraid of the Makkans, so he quietly followed Rasulullah (S) to his house.

He asked Rasulullah (S) to recite the Quran, and Rasulullah (S) recited some verses. They are so beautiful, so simple, so clear. No human being could have written them. Tufail became a Muslim immediately. He no longer cared what people would tell him or how they would treat him. Tufail(R) is remembered as a *Sahabi* of Rasulullah (S).

The propaganda of the *Kuffar*, perhaps slowed down the progress of Islam. But Islam's progress could not be stopped. There were always some people who wanted to know the truth. Once they heard the Quran their hearts opened to the truth of Islam. They recognized that the Quran is indeed a miracle and divine revelation, and Muhammad (S) is Allah's messenger.

Points to review:

1. To stop people from meeting Rasulullah (S), the *Kuffar* spread all kinds of rumors.
2. Some people like Abu Dharr (R) and Tufail (R) met Rasulullah (S), inspite of the rumors.
3. They heard the Quran and became Muslims

Words to remember:

Propaganda, reprisal, *Shahadah*.

Important names

Abu Dharr Ghiffari, Tufail Dusi

Quranic Study

1. Read Surah *al-Qalam* 68:1-15. See how Allah challenges the *Kuffar* and criticises them for opposing the Prophet.
2. Read Surahs: *al-Isra'* 17:88-89; *al-Tur* 52:34; *al-Baqarah* 2:23-24

See how Allah has challenged the *Kuffar* to produce the likeness of the Quran.